Marketing of the Dangerous Drugs

3641. SHRI GHAN SHYAM SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of medicines are being marketed in the country which have been withdrawn in other countries due to toxic and dangerous effects;

(b) if so, names of those drugs alongwith the major selling brands under which those drugs are being sold in our country?

(c) whether it is a fact that other substitute drugs are available in the country which are more safer;

(d) if so, what are the names of those drugs along with therapeutic indication of each;

(e) what are the reasons for allowing the marketing of these drugs;

(f) what are the findings and reports of other countries on the basis of which these drugs were withdrawn;

(g) whether it is a fact that there is no monitoring system to know the dangerous effects of drug in our country; and

(h) if so, why action for banning the marketing of such drugs based on the experience of other countries is not taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a), (b) and (f) A statement showing the names of drugs reported to be withdrawn in some countries and continue to be marketed in many countries, including India, and the reasons for withdrawal along with the popular brands of these drugs is annexed. [*See* Appendix CXLII, Annexure No. 137].

(c) and (d) Most of the drugs, under question, belong to the family of anti-diarrhoeal, anti-diabetic, anti-rheumatic and anti-pyretics. Several drugs are available for the treatment of same diseases|conditons. It is for the medical experts to decide which member of the therapeutic family would suit or the treatment of his patient. Member drugs under one therapeutic family are not necessarily substitutes for each other.

(e) The drugs allowed for continued marketing in India is based on the opinion of the experts and expert bodies who had considered that these drugs are needed in India on the ground the benefits offered by these drugs outweigh possible adverse reactions.

(g) and (h) Although there is as yet no cell operating at National level to monitor Adverse Drug Reaction, and serious adverse reaction of a drug as has been reported in certain population abroad, cannot be suppressed in the country. The experience of other countries with regard to banning cannot always be taken as a deciding factor as the adverse reaction to a drug are sometime confined to a particular population and the decision to withdraw a drug is also influenced by various factors such as prevalence of disease pattern, availability of safer substitutes, price of the drug and experts' opinion.

Cancer Incidence in Kerala due to Industrial Radioactive Element

3642. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a greater incidence of Cancer in certain localities in Kerala where industries are processing radioactive elements;

(b) whether it is a fact that the plants of the Central Sector Indian Rare Earths Limited at Eloor Poses a severe threat to the health of the people living in the neighbourhood;

(c) whether these plants have effective waste disposal plants which prevent Radioactive hazards;

(d) whether it is a fact that the waste material is stored close to Periyar which was providing drinking water to Cochin; and

(e) if so, what action is taken to prevent harmful effect of these Radiations on human health?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Implementation of Recommendations of Mehrotra Committee

3643. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1884 given in the Rajya Sabha on 12th August, 1987 and state the number of States who have agreed to implement the recommendations of the Mehrotra Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): According to information available so far, the Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Goa and Tamilnadu have agreed to implement the scheme of revision of pay scales of University and College teachers, communicated by the Central Government on June 17, 1987.

Telephones in the Villages of Madhya Pradesh

3644. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of villages in Madhya Pradesh having population of more than 5000 which have no telephone facility;

(b) whether Government have prepared a plan to provide telephone connection at least to the bigger villages within a definite time-frame; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and by when these will be provided at least public calls offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) 'NIL'. All the villages having population of more than 5000, as per 1971 Census, have been provided with telephone facilities.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In the 7th Plan it was proposed to provide telecom. facility on fully subsidised basis at the principal village in every inhabited geographical area bounded by a hexagon of 5 km. side. But due to the curtailment of funds it was decided that 1|3rd of such villages which are not having telephone facility, may be provided with telephone facility during the 7th Five Year Plan. Out of 6103 inhabited hexagons in Madhya Pradesh, 2836 hexagons had been covered upto 31-3-1985 leaving 3267, 1|3rd of which *i.e.* 1100 are targetted to be covered upto 31-3-90.

Performance of N.C.E.R.T.

3645. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in the 'Seminar' organised by the 'Federation of Publishers and Book-sellers Association of India' and the educationists present there, voiced their concern over the performance of the N.C.E.R.T. in regard to publishing and distribution of text books; and